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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AUDIO

Welcome my friends and countrymen. Come closer. That's better. Some of you may remember me from your school days for my experiments in electricity while flying a kite in the rain, but I am also fondly known as a diplomat, inventor, author, financier, scientist, deputy postmaster general, philosopher, statesman, man of affairs but fundamentally as a printer. I knew that the American Colonies needed paper money to grow to greatness and I advocated that concept. I printed currency for several American colonies for a long time. I furnished mottoes and designs for the printed money of the Continental Congress. Unfortunately our country went broke fighting the American Revolution so all of our paper money became worthless. I like to think that the inflation caused by the war was a patriotic tax on those who possessed money - call it part of the price of liberty. Because counterfeiters were always a menace to sound money I outsmarted those scoundrels by inventing nature printing which greatly deterred counterfeiting of paper money. Nature printing transferred the complex shape and pattern of the veins of real leaves to paper money, making it virtually impossible to imitate. I liked to put mottoes on money to improve the habits and morals of the populace such as "Time flies so mind your business" I hope you will enjoy the fine collection of money assembled here which demonstrates "A penny saved is a penny earned".